Thirty-Second Annual Report.

The Carmarthen Rural District comprises all the Parishes in the Carmarthen Union, with the exception of the Parish of St. Peter, which constitutes the Urban District of Carmarthen.

A circular as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health was issued by the Ministry of Health on the 28th of December, 1921, revising the particulars to be included, by the omission of details previously required, with a view to the curtailment of cost of printing, a fuller report being called for at intervals of five years.

This Report will, therefore, be drawn up in accordance with the instructions therein contained.

1. General Statistics.

Area (acres) 156,145.
Population (1921) 24,367, do. (1923) 24,500.

The number of inhabited houses in 1923 is estimated at 5,820, giving an average of 4·2 inhabitants to each house.

The number of families or separate occupiers in 1923 is estimated at 5,864.

The Rateable value of the Carmarthen Rural District is £157,185

The sum represented by a penny rate on the assessable value is £340.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Births	Legitimate ...	503	270	233	Birth-rate (R.G.) 21·2.
	Illegitimate ...	17	5	12	

Deaths Total 308 Males 159 Females 149 Death-rate (R.G.) 12·5

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth	from sepsis ...	0
	,, other causes ...	2

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—
Legitimate, 53; Illegitimate, 176; Total, 57.

Deaths from Measles (all ages), 2.
,, Whooping Cough (all ages), 0.
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) 1.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	CASES NOTIFIED.													DEATHS.												
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over.	Total
Diphtheria ..	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	2	0	1	1	...	12	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	5	4	3	4	23	7	5	3	1	...	55	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	..	...	...	...	..	0	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	..	..	2	...	...	1	...	3	6	1	..	1	..	...	...	..	...	2	1	4	1	10
Erysipelas ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	2	2	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Eucephalitis Lethargica ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
TUBERCULOSIS.																										
(a) Pulmonary Male	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	1	3	7	3	4	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	6	4	15
(a) Pulmonary F'male	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	2	2	10	3	5	23	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	7	6	...	19
(b) Non-Pulmonary Male	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	..	3
(b) Non-Pulmonary F'male	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total ..	0	0	7	6	4	4	29	13	13	26	12	17	131	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	4	6	13	19	6	51

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No case of this disease was notified or treated.

THE RATIO OF NON-NOTIFIED TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS TO TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS.

There were 38 deaths from Tuberculosis registered, and of these 21 had been previously notified at some time or other, leaving 17 cases un-notified.

Out of a total of 51 cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1923, 32 were notified by private practitioners, and 19 by the Tuberculosis Physician, under the control of the Welsh National Memorial. Early in the year 1922 all general practitioners in the area were circularized by the County Medical Officer of Health, reminding them of their obligations to notify.

4. Causes of Sickness.

No specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity were observed in the district, or by any of the local Medical practitioners.

5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

(a) **General.**—Seven District Nurses, under the South Wales Nursing Association (in affiliation with Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses) distributed as follows:—Drefach, 1; Llanddarog, 1; Llangendeirne, 1; Abergwili, 1; Nantgaredig 1; Llanstephan, 1; Ferryside, 1. Partly employed by the County Council for Maternity and Child Welfare work, and for School Medical Inspection, being paid £60 a year by that body for these services.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—No provision.

Midwives.—The above 7 nurses, each holding the C.M.B. qualification, act as Midwives. There is also one Private C.M.B. Midwife practising in the Township of Laugharne.

A sum of £5 is annually subscribed to the funds of 6 Nursing Associations, by the Carmarthen Board of Guardians, for nursing attendance on any paupers that may be required in their respective districts. In addition to these 8 nurses attending midwifery, there are 8 other bona-fide Nurse Midwives practising as follows:—Laugharne, 1; Ponthenry, 1; Nantgaredig, 1; Llangendeirne, 1; Llanllawddog, 1; Cross Hands, 1; Mydrim, 1; and Bancyfelin, 1.

Also there are three whole-time combined Health Visitors and School Nurses, for the areas served by the following Schools:—One for Trelech Village School, Penybont Trelech, Alma Trelech, Penrhiwlas, Abernant, Nantcwm Rhys and

Merthyr. One for Cwmduad, Conwil, Llanpumpsaint, Llanllawddog and Newchurch; and one for the St. Clears three schools, Llanddowror, Laugharne, Brook, Llanginning, Mydrim and Bankyeflin. These are all employed by, and provided for, by the County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	None exist in the district.
Day Nurseries	
School Clinics	
Tuberculosis Institutes	
Venerial Diseases Centres	

Hospitals.—No hospitals exist within the district.

1. The Carmarthenshire Infirmary is available for general surgical and Medical cases, situated in the town of Carmarthen, and is capable of accommodating 29 adults, besides 6 children.

No subsidy is provided by the Local Authority.

Venerial Diseases may be treated at the Swansea Hospital, being subsidised by the Carmarthenshire County Council.

(2). Tuberculosis is provided for by the Welsh National Memorial.

Small Pox.—In view of the possibility of cases of Small Pox appearing, and there being no available means of isolation, a small committee of the Urban Council was appointed to meet representatives of the Rural Council to consider the question.

It was decided that a piece of land should be acquired by the joint Councils, at a nominal rent of £5 per annum, in an isolated position, in the parish of Llanllawddog, in the Rural District, and within easy access of the Town of Carmarthen, where a temporary structure could be erected in a few hours, for the purpose of isolating any case that might suddenly occur and a wooden detachable bungalow was purchased at a cost of £70, capable of providing accommodation for one or two male and female patients, with kitchen and sleeping accommodation for two nurses. Arrangements were come to with the Officials of the County Infirmary whereby nurses and bedding could be immediately provided, and the Medical Officer of Health was given full power to provide the necessary furniture and stores locally. This arrangement is but a temporary one, to provide for any sudden emergency, pending the provision of a permanent Isolation Hospital by the County Authorities.

Ambulance facilities (a) For infectious cases. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases — none exist.

There is no **Institutional provision** for **unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants** and **homeless children,** beyond that provided by the Poor Law, at the Union Workhouse, in the town of Carmarthen.

6. Laboratory Work.

No pathological or bacteriological examinations were made on behalf of the authority during 1923.

Diphtheria antitoxin was not provided by the Council in any case. No other sera were issued.

GENERAL MORTALITY.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1923.

	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 living.														
											Rate per 1000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.		
	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population.	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence	Diarrhœa & Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
Carmarthen Rural	21·2	12·5	0·00	0.00	0·08	0·04	0.00	0·04	0·08	0·69	1·92	57	84·4	8·4	2·2
All England and Wales	19·7	11·6	0·01	0·00	0·14	0·03	0·10	0·07	0·22	0·44	7·7	69	92·0	6·9	1·1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1922.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
(Civilians only).		
ALL CAUSES	159	149
1. Enteric fever	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...
3. Measles	1	1
4. Scarlet fever	1	...
5. Whooping cough	...	...
6. Diphtheria	...	.
7. Influenza	2	...
8. Encephalitis lethargica	2	...
9. Meningococcal meningitis	...	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	15	19
11. Other tuberculous diseases	3	1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	12	15
13. Rheumatic fever	...	1
14. Diabetes	...	1
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	8	9
16. Heart disease	23	27
17. Arterio-sclerosis	6	2
18. Bronchitis	6	11
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	8	2
20. Other respiratory diseases	1	3
21. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	...
22. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	1
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	2	2
24. Cirrhosis of liver	...	...
25. Acute and chronic nephritis	9	12
26. Puerperal sepsis	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	2
28. Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	9	5
29. Suicide	2	2
30. Other deaths from violence	16	1
31. Other defined diseases	27	30
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	2
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis	...	...
Polioencephalitis	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total	16	14
Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Illegitimate	1	2
TOTAL BIRTHS	275	245
Legitimate	270	233
Illegitimate...	5	12
POPULATION		... 24,500

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.
RAINFALL IN 1923.

The following is a summary of the Record of the Rainfall kept at The Friary, Carmarthen, which is 61·9 feet above sea level :—

Month	Total Depth	Greatest fall in 24 Hours		Number of Days with	
				·01 in. or more	·04 in. or more
	Inches	Inches	Date		
January	3·54	·77	5th	26	14
February	8·84	1·36	6th	27	23
March	2·29	·47	1st	17	14
April	2·97	·62	24th	20	14
May	2·99	·67	9th	20	16
June	1·19	·39	8th	13	6
July	2·72	·50	27th	21	15
August	5·16	1·30	23rd	26	17
September	4·42	·55	17th	24	16
October	7·67	·77	29th	30	23
November . ..	5·60	1·58	13th	22	19
December	5·33	·74	1st	29	23
Total ...	52.72			275	200

There are no local Public Health Acts in force in the District.

The following Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations are in force :—

BYE-LAWS.

Dates of adoption by Council.

May, 1886 — Cleansing of Footways and Pavements, Removal of House Refuse
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools.
Nuisances.
Common Lodging Houses.
Houses Let in Lodgings.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND POWERS.

Oct., 1907—New Streets and Buildings and certain matters in connection with building.

Jan., 1891—Infectious Diseases Preventions Act, 1890.

Feb., 1891—Public Health Amendment Act (Part III.) 1890.

Dec., 1885 — Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 44.
Ditto ditfo Sec. 169, Sub-Section (2) and (3).
Ditto ditto Sec. 170, for certain parishes only.
Ditto ditto Sec. 157 and 158, certain parishes only.

Mar., 1895 — Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Sec. 23, Sub-Sections (1) (2) and (4).
Ditto ditto ditto Sec. 25 and 33.

Jan., 1906—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 39, for St. Ishmael's Parish only.
Ditto ditto Sec. 151, to a certain extent.

May, 1906 — Ditto ditto Sec. 20, for certain Parishes only.
Ditto ditto Sec. 160, ditto
Public Health (Buildings and Streets) Act, 1888, Sec. 3.
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Secs. 29, 30 and 31, in certain parishes only.

June, 1912—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 45, for Laugharne Township,

Mar., 1913—Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Sec. 25 in Part II. and Secs. 35 and 38, in Part III., subject to certain conditions.
Oct., 1914—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 39, for Llangendeirne Parish.
June, 1915—Ditto ditto Sec. 45, for Abergwili Parish.
Jan., 1900—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.
July, 1922—Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 45 for Llandefeilog, Llangendeirne, Llanstephan and St. Ishmael.

7. Sanitary Administration.

The following is a classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action, and result of action, taken in regard to these:—

	Llangendeirne District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
Number of Houses systematically inspected	325	324	649
Number re-visited	473	144	617
Number of Visits as per Inspector's Journal ...	246	269	515
Number of Visits to Dairies and Cowsheds ..	197	88	285
Number of Visits to Factories and Workshops ...	14	10	24
Number of Defects discovered	2	4	6
Houses—Defects or Nuisances discovered :—			
Number of premises cleaned and limewashed ...	9	0	9
Number of floors and passages re-laid	3	3	6
Number of roofs repaired	18	16	34
Number of eavestroughs repaired and new ones provided	12	0	12
Number to repair and pave yards	5	3	8
Number to construct windows to open... ...	12	3	15
Number of walls rendered damp proof	10	16	26
House Drains—Number re-laid	5	3	8
Number of new drains provided		12	12
Number of drains cleansed, trapped and ventilated	2	11	18
Number provided with stone-ware gullies ...	2	12	14
Closets—Number of additional closets	18	27	45
Number converted to pail closets	12	0	12
Water Supply—Wells cleansed and repaired ...	16	18	34
Number to provide houses with water supply ...	1	3	4
General—Animals kept so as to be a nuisance ...	4	9	13
To remove accumulation of offensive rubbish ..	10	15	25
Slaughter Houses—Number visits to	35	9	44
,, ,, Number registered	13	8	21
,, ,, Number of defects discovered ...	4	4	8
Schools—Number of visits paid to	58	22	80
Defects found...	9	6	15

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT (*continued*).

	Llangendeirne District.	St. Clears District.	Total.
Prevention of Infectious Diseases under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.			
Number of cases inquired into	53	15	68
Number of houses disinfected	30	16	46
Number of Patients removed to Hospital... ...	...	....	...
Number of Lots of Bedding disinfected or destroyed ...	3	3	6
Number of cases of illegal exposure of infected persons	...	...	...
OVERCROWDING—Number of houses being overcrowded	65	5	70
Number of Notices served distinguishing Statutory Notice from Informal Notices.			
Statutory notices served	23	10	33
,, , complied	19	4	2
,, ,, not-complied	4	6	10
,, ,, out-standing	4	6	10
Informal notices served	51	40	91
,, ,, complied	46	24	70
,, ,, not-complied	5	16	21
,, ,, out-standing	5	16	21
Verbal notices given	97	45	142
,, ,, complied	93	45	138
,, ,, not-complied...	4	...	4

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of some houses in Laugharne, Llanstephan and Ferryside, and certain isolated country houses, there is little disposal of excrement by the water-carriage system. The pail-closet system is the one chiefly in vogue, but some pit privies still exist, which are, however, being gradually converted into the pail system.

In the Llangendeirne Sub-district there exist: Water Closets, 139; Pail Closets, 2,351; Pit Privies, 109; and in the St. Clears Sub-district: Water Closets, 441; Pail Closets, 4,179; Pit Privies, 324. No closets have been converted into the water-carriage system during the year 1923.

Work of Sanitary Inspector.

The following places, where food is prepared, were regularly inspected.

Twenty-two bakehouses, 20 slaughter-houses and 4 milk factories.

There are 20 licensed slaughter-houses, to which 44 visits were paid.

Their condition, although for the most part crude in structure, is good, and they are well ventilated and sanitary.

No public abattoir exists.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Clothing, bedding, &c., are conveyed from infected houses to the steam disinfector in the town of Carmarthen, a charge of 15s. being made for each heating. A new Thresh steam disinfector was purchased from the Army Disposal Board for future use, but has not yet been erected.

Houses and rooms are usually disinfected with Formaline Gas after cases of infectious disease.

Action Under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Two hundred and eighty-five visits were paid to Dairies and Cow-sheds, and 61 notices were given to cleanse, ventilate and structurally improve.

No Milkshops exist.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts and the Milk and Cream Regulations.

The Rural Council is not a Local Authority under these Acts.

8. Public Health Staff.

Public Health Officers of the Council:—One part-time Medical Officer of Health, D.P.H., London, moiety of salary contributed; two whole-time Sanitary Inspectors, one of whom is certificated, moiety of salaries contributed.

9. HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year :—	
(a) Total	34
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme ...	0
1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*	
Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	649
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	269
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	17
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	78
2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	68
3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*	
A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	5
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	266
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(*a*) by owners	221
(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

L. M. BOWEN-JONES, D.P.H., Lond.,

Medical Officer of Health

The Friary, Carmarthen.
16th April, 1924.